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The Need for Urban Bike Repair

1 message

Richard Fries <richard@massbike.org>

Wed, Jun 3, 2015 at 7:22 AM

To: rpannesi.dnd@cityofboston.gov

Cc: BGoodman@fastworwards.com

Reay,

I hope this finds you well. I took over the reins at MassBike in January. With 38 years experience as a racer, promoter, commuter, marketing director, advocate, and tourist, I felt I knew best the prescription to improve cycling in the Bay State.

Boy was I in for a shock.

Turns out the lack of basic bike repair and maintenance is a huge problem.

While the folks who love bikes are doing great things statewide, the folks who NEED bikes are in serious need of some fundamental resources. As The New York Times reported last month, for folks looking to escape the prison of poverty the highest fence to scale is not education, drugs, crime, violence or the other popularized myths. The biggest hurdle to scale is transportation.

The expense of a car is too vast.

Buses take way too long.

And our MBTA has limitations, especially for folks in the hospitality industry who may get off work late at night.

Most Americans - regardless of their economic station - have a bike in the house. Or they DO have the means to procure a basic bike. But those bikes are often left with no air in the tires. For want of a \$20 pump, these folks are discouraged. And there are no shops in Chelsea, East Boston, Mattapan, etc.

This can change with community-based pop-up facilities. Mr. Goodman's initiative deserves your support.

Thanks,

Richard

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